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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 8 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the recent statement of the Israeli Prime Minister Regarding Israel's possession of nuclear weapons (see annex).

Furthermore, I kindly request that the above-mentioned document be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the recent statement of the Israeli Prime Minister regarding Israel's possession of nuclear weapons

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York considered at its meeting on 16 January 2007 the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, in which he publicly admitted the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel.

The Coordinating Bureau, gravely concerned by the statement, reaffirmed the principled positions of the Movement on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation reflected in various Non-Aligned Movement documents, including the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Havana, Cuba, from 11 to 16 September 2006.

The Coordinating Bureau reiterated its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. To that end, the Bureau reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free-zone in the Middle East in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981), and paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus, and stressed that necessary steps should be taken in different international forums for the establishment of the zone.

The Coordinating Bureau expressed its great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned Israel on its action and the statement in that regard, and for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals.

The Coordinating Bureau demanded that Israel, the only one in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency full-scope safeguards according to Security Council resolution 487 (1981), and to conduct its nuclear-related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime.

New York, 5 February 2007